

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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HOUSE COUNTY AFFAIRS INTERIM CHARGE HEARING MAY 5, 2014

Issues and Challenges

17 Year Olds and Certified Juveniles

- SB1209 and housing certified juveniles
- Housing 17 year olds

Prison Rape Elimination Act

- Federal Act
- 17 year olds
- Cross gender viewing
- Policies & Procedures

Paper Ready Inmates and Blue Warrants

- Duty to accept within 45 days
- Concern regarding TDCJ Capacity

Medical and Mental Health

- What is required and how it is provided
- Challenges to the county

Veterans and the Criminal Justice System

- Identification
- Services

Judge Donna S. Klaeger, Burnet, Chair
Stanley D. Egger, Abilene, Vice Chair
Irene A. Armendariz, El Paso

Allan D. Cain, Carthage
Jerry W. Lowry, New Caney
Larry S. May, Sweetwater

Sheriff Gary Painter, Midland
Dr. Michael M. Seale, M.D., Houston
Sheriff Dennis Wilson, Groesbeck

"The Commission on Jail Standards welcomes all suggestions and will promptly respond to all complaints directed against the agency or any facilities under its purview".

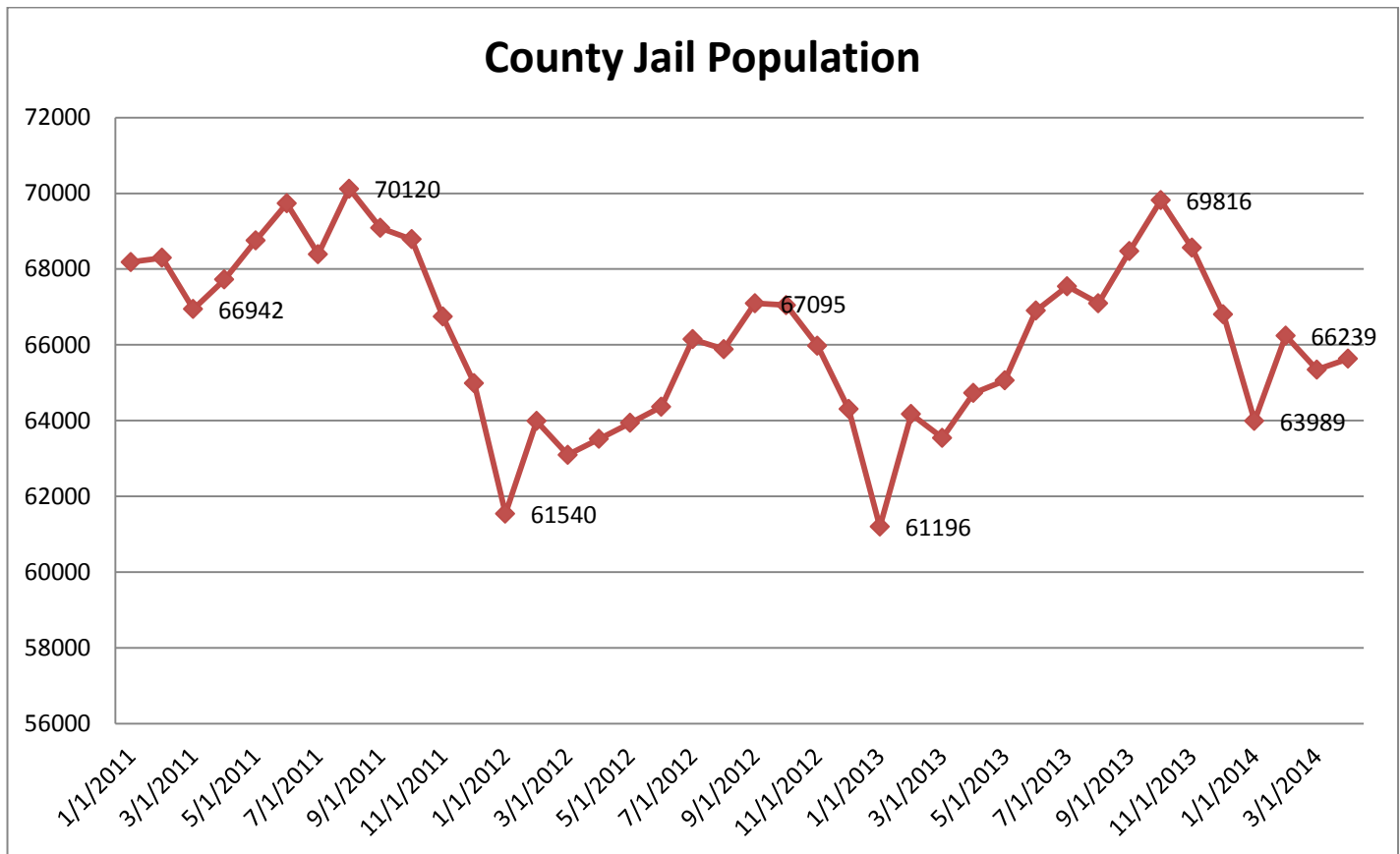
To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas

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The above chart provides a three year summary of the number of inmates in Texas County Jails. County Jail Populations traditionally spike in August and “bottom out” in January of each year. The spike in 2013 occurred later, when in October 2013 a high of almost 70,000 inmates was experienced. Although the current capacity of Texas County Jails is 90,000, isolated incidents of overcrowding have been experienced over the previous 3 years

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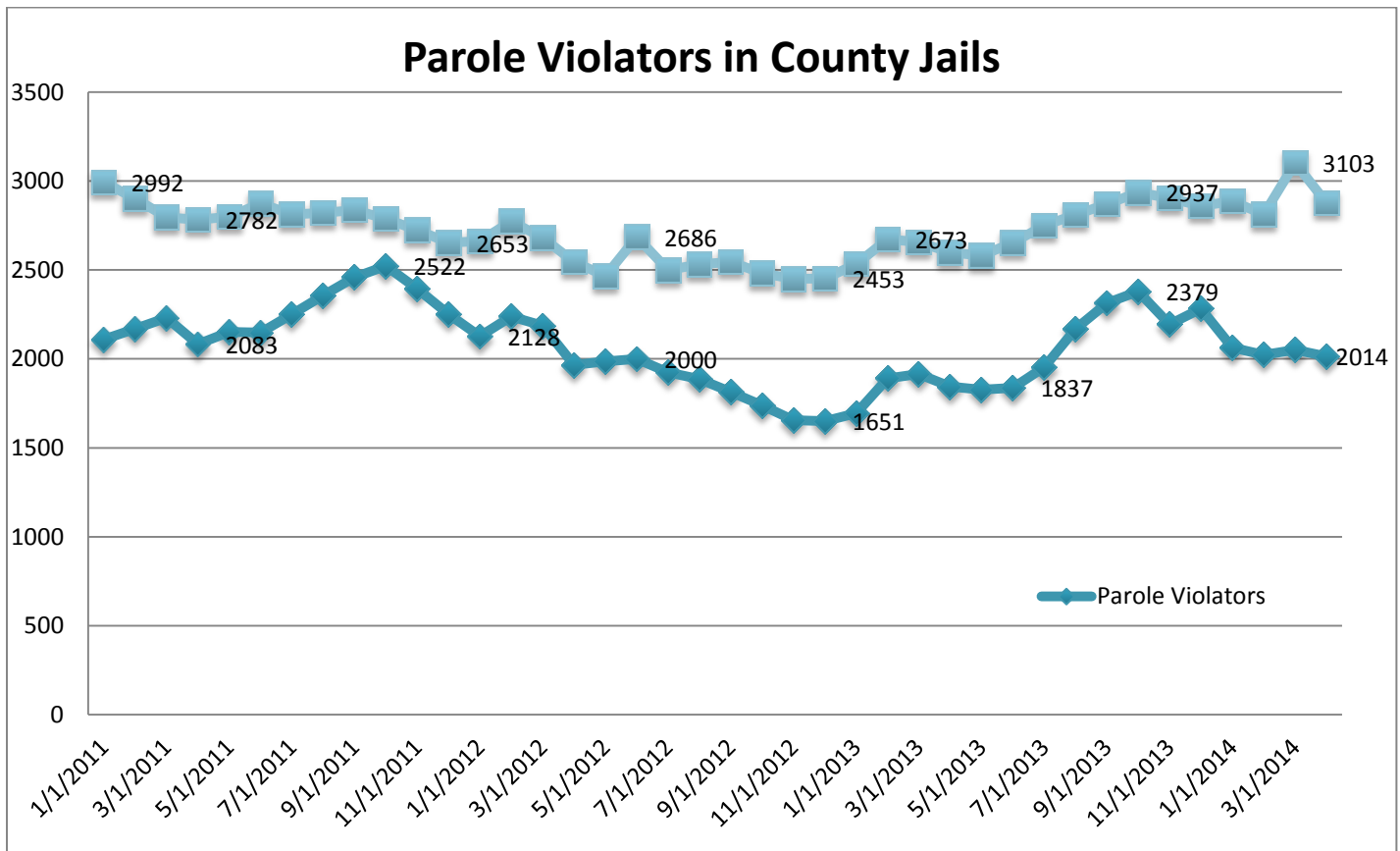
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This next chart tracks the three year summary of parole violators held in Texas County Jails. This segment of the inmate population is the one that is often referred to as “Blue Warrants” although that is not entirely correct. The term “Blue Warrant” refers to inmates that are on parole and have been charged with a new crime and is represented by the top line. The lower line represents individuals on parole that have a technical violation of their parole but not a criminal charge. Often these are lumped together when they are discussed, and that discussion normally includes the fact that unlike a regular inmate that can possibly be bonded out while awaiting trial on a criminal charge, that possibility is not allowed for a “Blue Warrant” inmate.

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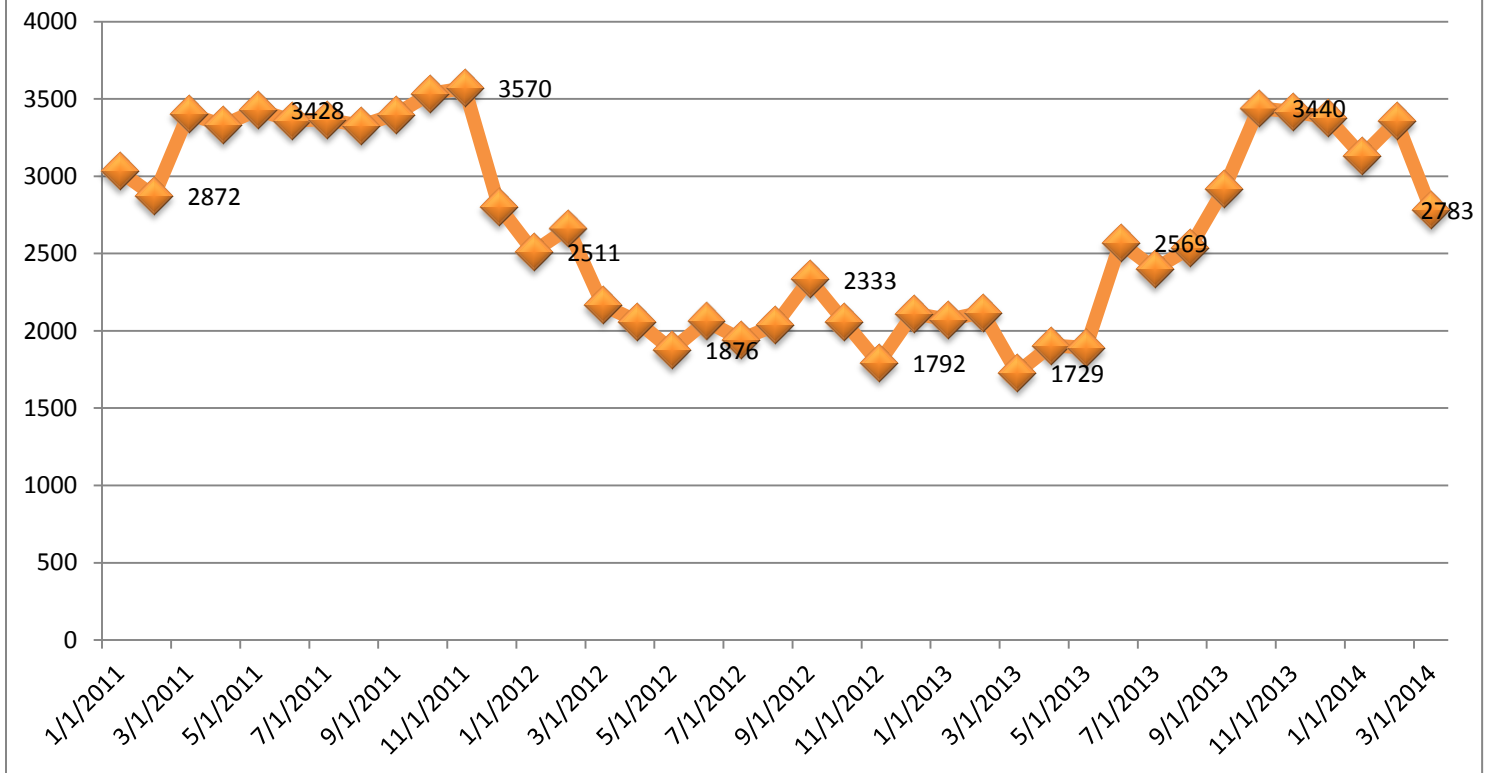
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Total Paper Ready Inmates in County Jails



This last chart represents the other segment of the inmate population that often comes up when discussing Texas County jail inmates and that is “Paper Ready.” Once an inmate in the county jail is found guilty and sentenced to prison, the county is required to compile a packet of documents and then submit them to TDCJ. Once that packet has been received, the inmate is designated as “paper ready” and the state then has 45 days to accept them. The 45 day time period was instituted after several counties sued the state in the early 90s for not accepting the sentenced inmates and leaving them in the county jails. Currently, the average time across the state for the transfer is 23 days.

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